

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the features of Claim 12. Accordingly, Claim 12 has been canceled. No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-5, 10-11 and 13-19 will be pending.

In light of the amendments to Claim 1 and the remarks below, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims. The following addresses the substance of the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claims 13-18 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants have now amended these claims in this manner. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Obviousness

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malhotra et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,908,723). In particular, the Examiner asserts that Malhotra teaches recording sheets comprising an ink spreading polymeric agent that may comprise polyacrylic acid (column 1, lines 57-67, and column 2, lines 1-2), p-phenylenediamine compounds (column 2, lines 21-24), and fillers such as clay, calcium carbonate and colloidal silica (column 2, line 26).

With regard to Claim 12, the Examiner stated that the preamble is directed only to a formed body in a location, but does not expressly require a device in combination with the formed body. As noted above, the limitations of Claim 12 have been incorporated into Claim 1 in a manner that the claim now recites a device in combination with the formed body. This combination is nowhere disclosed or suggested by Malhotra. Accordingly, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have produced the presently claimed invention on the basis of the Malhotra reference. As such, Claim 1, and the claims that depend from it, are believed to be patentable over the Malhotra reference for this reason alone.

Moreover, the p-phenylenediamine compounds disclosed in Malhotra are lightfast antiozonant compounds, and the examples thereof are listed in column 2, lines 21-24. The Applicant has deleted recitation of p-phenylenediamine compounds from the options of amine

compounds in Claim 1. Accordingly, the present invention differs from Malhotra with regard to the kinds of amine compounds used.

The Applicants have surprisingly shown that the moisture-absorbent formed bodies of the presently claimed electroluminescent devices, which comprise the specific amine compounds recited, have the unexpected result of preventing the occurrence or growth of dark spots in the organic electroluminescent devices. In contrast, Malhotra neither discloses nor suggests this distinctive effect. Accordingly, the moisture-absorbent formed body disclosed in Claim 1 is not unobvious in view of Malhotra et al. This unexpected result would refute any *prima facie* showing of obviousness, even were such a showing present

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malhotra et al. (*supra*) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,303). However, in view of the remarks above with regard to Malhotra et al., Takahashi fails to provide any reason to the skilled artisan to develop the presently claimed organic electroluminescent devices comprising a moisture-absorbent formed body, which comprises specific amine compounds that prevent the occurrence or growth of dark spots in organic electroluminescent devices.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the preceding remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

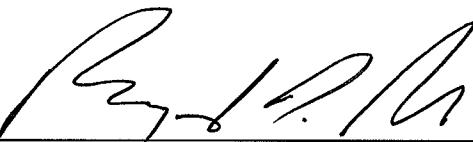
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

By: 

Raymond D. Smith
Registration No. 55,634
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20995
(949) 760-0404

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